Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 05127 01 OF 02 151722Z ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 CU-04 AGRE-00 OES-07 ARA-10 /106 W

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R 151659Z MAR 78 FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5492 INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 05127

USEEC

E.O.11652: GDS TAGS: EAID, SO, EEC SUBJECT: POSSIBLE EC ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA

REF: (A) STATE 53327 (B) STATE 49646 (C) BRUSSELS 911

- 1. MARCH 14, CHARGE SAW EC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER CHEYSSON'S CHEF DE CABINET, PHILIPPE SOUBESTRE, TO TRANSMIT MESSAGE TO CHEYSSON FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE, AS INSTRUCTED REF A. SOUBESTRE INDICATED EC IS VERY INTERESTED IN COORDINATING WITH THE US ON ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA AND SUGGESTED THAT IN COMING WEEKS USG MIGHT USEFULLY ENCOURAGE EC MEMBER STATES TO PURSUE--BILATERALLY AND THROUGH THE COMMUNITY AS SUCH--DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE EFFORTS TOWARD SOMALIA.
- 2. AT PRESENT, EC IS GIVING PRIORITY TO SOMALI REQUEST FOR: (A) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN FIELDS OF HEALTH AND TECHNICAL TRAINING (INCLUDING REPLACEMENT OF APPROXIMATELY 500 SOVIET ADVISORS FORMERLY STATIONED IN SOMALIA), AND (B) A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO ASSIST RELOCATION OF 366 SOMALI STUDENTS NOW IN USSR AND CUBA WHO REPORTEDLY WILL CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 05127 01 OF 02 151722Z

LOSE FINANCIAL SUPPORT AT END OF CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR. SOUBESTRE SAID HE IS OPTIMISTIC THAT FUNDING FOR THESE PRIORITY NEEDS WILL BE FORTHCOMING FROM BOTH COMMUNITY AND MEMBER STATE SOURCES. IN THIS CONNECTION, A COMMISSION COMMUNICATION TO THE EC COUNCIL ON SOMALIA'S AID REQUIREMENTS WILL BE REVIEWED BY COREPER THIS WEEK AND A DECISION ON EC ASSISTANCE (THROUGH MEMBER STATE AND EC

EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND (EDF) CHANNELS) IS EXPECTED BY END OF MARCH.

- 3. SOUBESTRE ALSO PROVIDED CHARGE WITH A COPY OF A REPORT ON A RECENT FIELD MISSION TO SOMALIA BY AN EDF TEAM. ACCORDING TO THIS DOCUMENT, SOMALIS ORIGINALLY REQUESTED EC ASSISTANCE ON 16 PROJECTS. THREE OF THESE (FANOLE AGRICULTURAL PROJECT, AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION SCHOOL, AND RESETTLEMENT OF NOMADS IN FISHING VILLAGES) HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED FROM CONSIDERATION AT THE SUBSEQUENT REQUEST OF THE SOMALIS. THE REMAINING PROJECTS ARE GROUPED AS FOLLOWS:
- -- AGRICULTURE: ASSISTANCE FOR ONAT (THE STATE ORGAN IN CHARGE OF AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION);
- -- FISHERIES: (SOMALIAN FISHING ENTERPRISE, FISH STORAGE AND PROCESSING FACTORY, AND PROJECT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FISHING PORTS);
- -- INDUSTRY: (MEAT STORAGE FACTORY AND MOGADISCIO DAIRY);
- -- INFORMATION: (RADIO MOGADISCIO);
- -- HEALTH: (CENTRAL LABORATORY FOR TROPICAL DISEASES);
- -- GEOLOGICAL AND CARTOGRAPHIC STUDIES (FEASIBILITY STUDIES ON EXPLOITATION OF FERROUS AND NON-FERROUS METALS, SUBTERRANEAN WATER SUPPLY, AND MAPPING OPERATIONS).
- 4. IN ADDITION TO SCHOLARSHIPS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REQUIREMENTS (SEE PARA 2 ABOVE), EDF FIELD MISSION RECOMMENDED THAT PRIORITY ATTENTION BE GIVEN BY COMMUNITY TO CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 05127 01 OF 02 151722Z

HELPING ONAT, MOGADISCIO DAIRY, AND POSSIBLY RADIO MOGADISCIO. WHILE OTHER PROJECTS ON LIST ARE OF SOME ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE, THEIR PRESENT INTERRUPTION AS A RESULT OF SOVIET WITHDRAWAL WILL, IN EDF TEAM'S VIEW, ONLY CAUSE LIMITED SECTORAL DIFFICULTIES.

- 5. WHILE THE TEAM'S REPORT STATES THAT A FINAL DECISION ON AID TO THE VARIOUS PROJECTS AND SECTORS EXAMINED MUST BE TAKEN IN CONJUNCTION WITH EC MEMBER STATES, THE REPORT SUGGESTS THAT AN INITIAL EFFORT ON THE PART OF THE EDF (THROUGH RESHUFFLING OF FUNDS ALREADY EARMARKED FOR SOMALIA) COULD BE UNDERTAKEN AS FOLLOWS:
- -- RELOCATION OF STUDENTS UNDERGOING TRAINING IN USSR (ESTIMATED COST ABOUT 250,000 UNITS OF ACCOUNT. ONE U.A. \$1.25);
- -- DETAILING TO SOMALIA OF FOUR MEDICAL SPECIALISTS AND TEN MEDICAL INSTRUCTORS (ABOUT 800,000 UNITS OF ACCOUNT PER YEAR); AND
- -- TRANSFER TO SOMALIA (FOR PERIODS OF VARYING DURATION) OF A CERTAIN NUMBER OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANTS TO MEET SPECIFIC NEEDS OF A FEW PROJECTS (ABOUT 400,000 UNITS OF ACCOUNT).
- 6. IN SUM, SOUBESTRE TELLS US THAT EC IS GENERALLY COM-

MITTED TO ASSISTING SOMALIS AND THAT ONLY REMAINING QUESTION IS POTENTIAL SOURCE, OR SOURCES, OF ADDITIONAL FINANCING. HE IS OPTIMISTIC THAT FUNDS FOR THE VARIOUS PRIORITY PROJECTS (PARA 4 ABOVE) WILL BE FOUND IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE, WITH FRG, UK AND BELGIUM LIKELY SOURCES OF ADDITIONAL BILATERAL AID.

7. SOUBESTRE ALSO CONFIDED THAT OFFICIALS IN SOMALI MISSION IN BRUSSELS HAVE RECENTLY TOLD HIM CANDIDLY THEY FEAR THAT BECAUSE OF REVERSAL IN MILITARY SITUATION WITH ETHIOPIA, SIAD BARRE MAY HAVE LEFT HIMSELF OUT ON A LIMB POLITICALLY AND MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO RIDE OUT THE POSSIBLE ENSUING STORM. SOMALI OFFICIALS THOUGHT THAT BARRE'S RELUCTANCE TO RID HIMSELF OF ADVISORS WHO WERE

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 05127 02 OF 02 151722Z ACTION AF-10

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R 151659Z MAR 78 FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5493 INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 05127

IDENTIFIED WITH FORMER SOVIET PRESENCE IN SOMALIA IS ALSO A SOURCE OF CONTINUING UNCERTAINTY. SOUBESTRE SAID HE SHARES SOMALIS' CONCERN ABOUT COUNTRY'S FUTURE POLITICAL STABILITY, AND EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN RECEIVING DEPARTMENT'S READING OF EVOLVING INTERNAL SITUATION IN SOMALIA AND THE HORN OF AFRICA GENERALLY. IF DEPARTMENT HAS ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (BEYOND THAT CONTAINED IN REF B) WHICH IT BELIEVES MISSION COULD USEFULLY COMMUNICATE TO CHEYSSON AND HIS STAFF, PLEASE ADVISE. IF DEPARTMENT HAS NO OBJECTION, MISSION WILL BRIEF SOUBESTRE ON STATE 65689. MORRIS

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